

# *Upton St Leonards Life*

*incorporating Church News*

**Issue 133**

**September 2025**



## **Just 12 days to go**

Saturday 13 September is the big day of the Village Show. See the next page for more detail.

## **Just 12 days to go**

Last year's show was the best attended for many years. Can we beat the record again?

Great fun for all. Stalls, flower, veg and craft competitions, kids' games, great food

**Upton St Leonards Show - 13 September - Village Hall**



**A wonderful display of flowers at the BMI. Brian Dodd, you are a real star!**

**It's time for  
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Coffee  
Morning**  
and you're invited

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CANCER SUPPORT

Once again, those lovely people at the Post Office, Tru Cuts, the Coffee Shop and Upton Builders are running the Macmillan Coffee Morning at the shops.

**Friday 26 September**

Always a fabulous Village event that raises a huge amount for Macmillan Cancer support

# Upton St Leonards Show

Saturday 13th September at the Village Hall

There are just 12 days until the Upton St Leonards Show takes place once again. It's not too late to enter any of the competitions! Entry forms and schedules are available from the Village Stores, Portway Farm Shop and the Upton Show website. [www.uptonstleonardsshow.com](http://www.uptonstleonardsshow.com)

2.00pm	Gates Open
2.30pm	Family Dog Show (£1 entry on the day)
	Best Dog
	Best Bitch
	Dog with the waggiest tail
3.15pm	Dog that looks most like its owner (50p entry on the day)
4.15pm	Prize giving and raffle draw

There is a great selection of stalls, books, tombola, ice creams and hot dogs,. There's a bouncy castle, teddy tombola, hook a duck and face painting for the children.

Exhibits may be brought from 8.00am on the morning of the show and must be in place ready for judging at 10.30am All exhibits must be removed from the Village Hall/Marquee by 5.15pm.

The closing date for entry forms is 8.00pm on Wednesday 10th September. Entry forms to Amy Coker, 59 Bondend Road.

If you can spare an hour or so on the day, we still need volunteers especially with the refreshments. We would be grateful to receive cakes and biscuits, books, pre-loved teddies and tombola prizes.

Upton WI will also be holding a "White Elephant" stall at this year's show. Are you able to donate any good clothing you no longer need or use for them to sell? Call Angela Harris for information.



## Editorial

We have often asked for feedback and we have recently asked if readers would like to contribute an article. Not many responses *until this month*: we had no less than 3 emails and a letter commenting on the July issue and 2 articles written by readers. Those two articles are on the next page, by Alan Greswell and by Val Doll.



Two of the three emails were responding to a plea in the July issue about riding e-scooters on the pavement with little regard to the safety of pedestrians. Both respondents pointed out that *riding a privately owned e-scooter on a road, pavement or anywhere else in a public space is illegal*.

One correspondent kindly sent the official police statement below.

The letter was a report of a near miss, driving on Portway, with a young girl travelling fast on a scooter emerging from a driveway.

E-scooters are classed as motor vehicles under the Road Traffic Act 1988. This means the rules that apply to motor vehicles, also apply to e-scooters including the need to have a licence and insurance.

There are two ways of using an e-scooter:

- by privately owning one
- by renting one through an authorised rental scheme

Owning your own e-scooter: It's not currently possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters. This means it's illegal to use them on the road or in public spaces, such as parks, street pavements, and shopping centres.

If you use a privately-owned e-scooter in public, you risk the vehicle

being seized under S.165 Road Traffic Act 1988 for having no insurance.

If you cause serious harm to another person whilst riding an e-scooter, the incident will be investigated in the same way it would if you were riding a motorcycle or driving a car.

I think it likely that very nearly all readers of our magazine are aware of this, and would not be buying e-scooters for themselves, their kids or grand-kids to use in public spaces, but I am including this information just in case.

The other email was a reaction to the police report showing the speeding figures for Churchfield Road. The correspondent makes a plea to the Parish Council to put pressure on Highways about the junction of Churchfield Road with Ash Path. There have been a number of small crashes or near misses, sometimes involving pedestrians, but at least one involved five cars being damaged, one of them smashing into the fence opposite the junction. Having in one small area this junction, the junction with Bondend Road, the entrance to the church, a bus stop, and no pedestrian crossing makes it a dangerous place, particularly when drivers don't slow down: many take it too fast.



Thanks to Meg James, Chris Ellson, Sally Patterson and Philip Bennett for these emails and letter.



## Reader's articles

In the last couple of months we have invited readers to have a go at writing for us. Well – we got two articles in response, and here they are!

### A Villagers Musings – “Cider with Cheese and Steam”

After reading the invitation on the front cover of the July issue for readers to write something, I thought why not?

Have a go, but what on earth can I write about? So I gave some thought to what I had done recently . . . where have I been, what have I seen . . . so here goes.

My wife and I wanted to drive to an interesting village somewhere to have a little walk about. We went to Gotherington, the other side of Bishops Cleeve, because there are some new bungalows we wanted to see and I also wanted to see Gotherington Halt, a station on the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Heritage Railway line.

We were sadly disappointed . . . the new bungalows were small and for sale at a ridiculous price and the station had been converted to a private dwelling without public access\*.

We then drove on past Prescott Hill Climb to the pretty village of Gretton, a couple of miles short of Winchcombe. We stopped at a very nice pub, the Royal Oak, with far reaching views of grazing livestock with gently rolling hills either side. There is also a fascinating, skilfully carved tree trunk in the car park,



\*Ed: Gotherington Station itself is open and looked after lovingly by the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway volunteers, with flower beds, porters trolleys, benches and all things one would expect to see on a 1960s well kept station. A delight to visit. The trains stop and one can alight there and use a public footpath (only) to get to and from the village. However, the main station building and platform on that side, and the road to it are privately owned.

depicting, of course, the story of the future King Charles II hiding up an oak tree (not that this happened anywhere near Gretton.)

At the bar we both ordered a chilled draught cider and sat in some comfy seats in the shade quietly drinking our cider and admiring the wonderful countryside. The cider tasted fabulous, it shares the name of an animal found all round the British Isles, with a black and white striped face.

The train line passes close to the pub so if you happen to be there on a day the trains are running you can wave to the passengers as the train trundles by and reminisce about steam engines.

In the car park there was a very cheerful gentleman running a posh looking stall selling a wide selection of cheeses, chutneys, pies, etc. We bought some Vintage Red Fox cheese (a bit like Red Leicester), some Cote Hill Blue Brie and some crab terrine. When he gave me the bill I realised why the seller was smiling so much!

All in all a very simple, enjoyable day out and one to be recommended.

Alan Greswell

PS – please don't badger me about the name of the cider!

### Are we complaining? - Val Doll

Phew! What a scorcher. I was a gentle English rose, now I am the colour of a well ripened strawberry. In our youth an adventurous day out meant a pair of shorts and an easy top, a bicycle and a jam sandwich. The sun had a gentle warmth with no sting in its tail. Today's outings mean a backpack with sun cream, a decent sized hat, sunglasses, cover-up clothes and the vital bottle of water. Oh! And have you remembered to take your allergy pills or medicine for whatever?

We'll never complain about the bitter winter cold again!

Cor! The wind is biting. Our underwear is like Army surplus, it's so sensible. We have layers on top, thermal coat, gloves and woolly hat and still we are shivering. Let's get home quickly, get the fire on, turn up the radiators a notch, a lovely cup of hot tea. Tonight not just the duvet but a good old-fashioned hot water bottle too.

We'll never complain about the scorching heat of summer again!

## Recent events at the BMI

The last few weeks have been busy at the BMI with various events including the quiz, summer skittles and entertainment nights.



The summer skittles competition began in June with 12 teams participating. The six weeks of competition flew by with the final taking place on Thursday 31st July. The winners this year were "Lumberjacks" with a score of 323 who beat "Scotties Lot" who had a score of 289.

Rich Berry received a trophy for the highest individual score for men of 65 and Pauline Morgan had the highest score of 67 for the ladies. Both are members of the Lumberjacks team.

Pat Brown, presented the "Knuckles" trophy in memory of her husband Terry, to the winning team. Once the trophies had been presented the teams enjoyed a buffet arranged by Lorraine.

The summer quiz took place on Saturday 19th July. The quiz was organised by Julie Winstanley with



Clive being the quiz master. It was a great evening. The winning team were the Baggies and the runners-up were the Typhoons. Over £157 was raised for the BMI Charity for 2025-26. (The charity will be confirmed at the next BMI committee meeting). The next quiz will be on Saturday 18th October with our regular quiz master Andy Russell.



On Saturday 2nd August, Aaron Cook entertained many BMI members with a range of music from the 60's to the present day. It was a great evening with the dance floor busy most of the night.

The Pig Roast took place on Saturday 9th August, and this year it was more of a "Summer Party". This is always one of the most popular events in the village and was well attended with over 150 people on a lovely warm evening. The pork rolls provided by Ben Creese went down very well.



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## Coming up at the BMI September and beyond

All events open to members and signed in guests

Sunday 21st September

Sunday Evening Jazz

with

Os Grilos

6-8pm



Saturday 27th September

Entertainment Night

with

Michael Ian Brown

from 8pm



Saturday 4th October

Entertainment Night

with

Earl Tee

from 8pm





# Reports on what's been happening

August is a bit of a quiet month for Village events, of course. No WI meetings.

## Ladies Probus

For our July meeting, we were entertained by Bill & Dan, who are 'Story Travellers'. Their title was Destiny or Fate - and, as Dan told us, we can exercise some control over our destiny but not over our fate! Very profound indeed!

On this theme, Bill regaled us with three different stories from different parts of the world. Dan, who is obviously a very talented musician, provided the musical background, singing his own composition of appropriate songs while he played his guitar. A very different meeting enjoyed by us all.

For our September meeting, Katie Mawson is going to talk to us about Skin..vestment. This sounds intriguing, so please come & join us at 10am on 24 September in BMI to find out all about it.

## Defibrillator (Phone) Box

Have you noticed that the phone box by the BMI (now housing a defibrillator) has had a new coat of Post Office red paint with the crowns picked out in gold? The old red paint was decidedly faded. Thanks to Duncan Lord and Andy Russell for doing the job.

## History Group

The History Group's July meeting was its AGM. The committee was re-elected, apart from Dorothy Cox who is standing down. There was a vote of thanks to Dorothy who has done many committee jobs and helped with the refreshments at most meetings.

There was an entertaining quiz, mostly on local history, won by the team smiling in the picture below.



History buffs, L-R: Rob Knibbs, Dave Owen, Vanda Owen, Andy Russell

## BMI Charities for 2025-6

The BMI committee has decided that the nominated charities for their fund raising 2025-6 will be the Alzheimer's Society and, once again, the Church Roof fund.

## FLAT SPIN by the UpStagers

A comedy with a rather complicated plot and lots of dialogue made this quite a difficult play to put on and direct. Nevertheless, the UpStagers really worked hard to get the best out of it.

The first two scenes had to build up the plot, and though it wasn't a riot of funny lines it did at least mean that all the players had their chance to build up their characters - there were no bit parts in this play! After the interval the pace quickened and the comedy was more to the fore. I liked the lines A: "You keep telling me what to do", B: "Because I haven't the time to write it all down!" And there was a superb *ad lib* on the first night when Patrick (Andy Metcalfe) forgot his line, got the prompt, slapped his face and said: "I knew I was meant to say something to you" out loud.

The play opened with an empty room. Malcolm (David Carey), who lived in it, was bemused, wondering where all the furniture had gone. Turns out he'd been scammed by his partner Rhonda (Kate Brooks) who had ensured the flat and its contents were in her name; she'd emptied it and put the flat on the market. So we met a prospective tenant Alan (Martin Smith), keen to have an empty room for his model battle re-enactment, and the letting agent Marsha (Carol Vye). Neighbours Patrick and Kate (Jane Rogers) decided to try to recover the flat for Malcolm, aided by decorator Louise (Rachel Gibbs) who was working in the flat above. MP Justin Templar (Keith Pearson) got involved because scammer Rhonda, the baddie, was scheming to marry him and gain prestige as an MP's wife. The hilarity was based around getting Malcolm back his flat from Rhonda, putting off prospective tenant Alan and agent Marsha, and there was a completely unexpected twist involving a robbery at an adjoining building.

The producer this time was Keith Pearson (who was also the MP character). There are pictures from the production on the back page.

Thanks to all the actors, producer and team, costume, backstage, set builders, front of house, refreshments servers, for all their hard work in making this happen.

Keith Pearson adds: "UpStagers wish to thank all those who came to watch once again. Without an audience it wouldn't be the same. We hope to see you in February for our next production, 'Inspector Drake's Last Case'."



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## Come and join the History Group

We are luckier still, some might say, to have access to regular history talks right here on our very doorstep - at the Village Hall where the History Group meets every other month.

The group was founded in 1999 by the late Ken Herbert and Dave Chave, and continues to thrive. Our visitor numbers have actually soared this season but it would be good to have more group members, so if you've been a visitor recently, then do think about becoming a member! And if you haven't been to a meeting, do come to see what it is like.

Talks, as you can see below, are about local history, mixed with more general subjects. It's a very informal and friendly setting.

In the 2024-5 season we've enjoyed talks on Katherine of Aragon, Katherine Parr, Gloucestershire Battles, Upton St Leonards Charities and local man Dennis Wyatt (by his son Edward Wyatt).

Coming up for the 2025-6 season we have talks on the Severn Bridge Rail Disaster, Stroud Workhouse, Woodchester Mansion, The Victoria Cross and the three field system in Upton St Leonards.

The season starts on Thursday 18th September, see below.

Annual membership is only £10 or £2 for visitors.

## History Group Thursday 18 September

The "season" starts on Thursday 18th September at the village hall at 7.45, with a talk on Henry VIII's Royal Tour of Gloucestershire 1535, including, of course, his visit to Upton St Leonards.

## September is History Month again

We are blessed here to live so close to Gloucester History Festival, which kicks off on 6th September.

As well as the talks, featuring some very well known speakers, there will be tours of historic parts of the city, and access to many private spaces to see very old or spectacular features.



## Upton St Leonards and the Pitcairn Islands

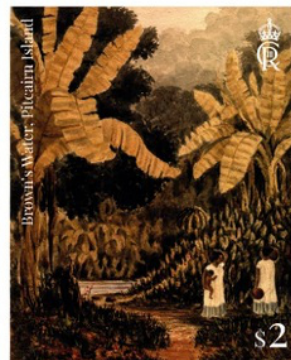
I dare say some readers saw this on Points West and Midlands Today on BBC1 TV in mid August.

The Pitcairn Islands receive some income from the sale of their postage stamps, and new stamps were designed recently, received Royal Approval and are being issued. The designer wanted to feature people who had helped the Islands. Two of the stamps feature Dr William Ancrum and his wife Emily. For a time in the 1850s these two were in Valparaíso, Chile, which is among the nearest continental cities to the Islands. Dr Ancrum and his wife Emily cared for children of Pitcairn residents in a hospital in Valparaíso.

They returned to England, and by about 1863 had purchased St Leonards Court - the large house behind the King's Head. William and Emily are buried in our churchyard, and the large stained glass window by the organ in church (picture on the right) was placed there in 1905 by Emily in memory of her husband and three of their children who died young.

The Pitcairn Islands are four volcanic islands that form the British Overseas Territory in the South Pacific. They are famous as the place where the mutineers of the *Bounty* created their sanctuary. The population in 2023 was about 35.

(PS - Upton also had a connection with another remote island through former resident Gerald Buck, who corresponded with, and then visited a Tristan da Cunha islander. Gerald gave a few talks in Upton about Tristan da Cunha)



PITCAIRN ISLANDS

PITCAIRN ISLANDS

PITCAIRN ISLANDS



## A Grizzly Find

### Upton St Leonards - 1860

"On Thursday, an inquest was held at Upton St. Leonards, a village near Gloucester, the body of an old man, named John Brown, who was found dead in an orchard at that village, on Tuesday afternoon, with his body mangled by some pigs, which had gnawed away his arm and part of his nose. The following evidence was taken:

George Clapham stated - I am gardener and bailiff to Charles Brooke Hunt, Esq., of Bowden Hall. On Tuesday afternoon last, about half-past two, in consequence of seeing the pigs collected in an orchard adjoining the barn and sheds, and evidently playing with something, I went to the spot, and saw the body of the deceased. I drove the pigs away, and afterwards

examined the body. Deceased was lying upon his back, and his right arm was extended and had been gnawed by the pigs, which had also gnawed his nose, the marks on which were quite fresh. Deceased was dead and quite cold. His hat, a bag, handkerchief, a table knife, and raw onion were lying near him. There is a footpath through the orchard near where he was lying. I had known deceased for several years but had not seen him before on that day, he was in the habit of occasionally begging in the parish, but I did not know his name. Four pigs were standing near the body. By direction of Mr. Brooke Hunt, I and Richard Jones, in the presence of Mr. Hunt, removed the body to the place where it is now lying."

There then follows another witness account by William Avery - labourer of Upton St. Leonards. He saw John Brown alive on the Monday before,

walking unsteadily, due to his age, towards the orchard. He adds that John Brown "supported himself chiefly by begging, but worked a little in summer."

John Brown's son Thomas also gave a statement to the inquest. John Brown said that his father "had no settled home."

"The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the evidence."



It's a sad little tale illustrating Dickensian poverty. One assumes the man died of cold, hunger and old age - the article doesn't actually give the coroner's verdict. Our thanks to Tony Pryce who spotted this news item (how?) in *The Norfolk News*, *Eastern Counties Journal*, and *Norwich, Yarmouth, and Lynn Commercial Gazette* - 29th December 1860.





Rev Helen Champion

# Saint Leonard's Church

Churchfield Road  
Upton St Leonards  
Gloucester  
GL4 8AT



Dear Friends

As summer fades into autumn and the mornings turn cooler, we find ourselves entering a new season in more ways than one. After many months of planning, fundraising, and patient waiting, work is finally beginning on replacing the roof of our beloved church building. This is a major project – one we have known was necessary for some time – and at last the time has come.

This means that for the next few months, our Sunday 10 am services will be held in the Village Hall. I am deeply grateful to the Village Hall Committee for their generosity in welcoming us and making space for our worship. We know this is no small thing, as the hall is already a busy hub for our community. We are thankful to be able to share the space and continue gathering together in the heart of the village.

Of course, this move brings change. We will be worshipping in a different space, arranging chairs instead of pews, setting up each week rather than simply unlocking the door. The familiar rhythms of our Sundays will alter. There may be little inconveniences, like remembering to bring everything we need with us each week, or adjusting to a different acoustic for our hymns. But alongside these adjustments, there is opportunity.

Sometimes change opens doors we didn't realise were there. It prompts us to notice things afresh, to be creative, and to discover blessings in unexpected places. Meeting in the Village Hall will put us right at the heart of village life in a different way. People

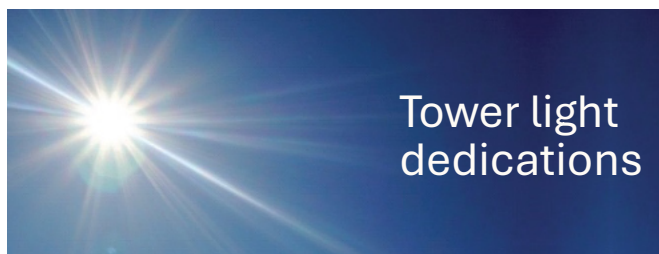
walking by may notice our gathering and be more inclined to join in. We may find conversations happening over the coffee table with people who might not otherwise have stepped inside the church building. And perhaps, freed from the familiar surroundings, we will see God's presence in ways we haven't before.

The Bible reminds us that, while our surroundings may change, God does not. In the book of Hebrews we read: *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever"* (Hebrews 13:8). Our church building is a precious and important part of our life together – it holds memories, history, and meaning – but it is not the foundation of our faith. That foundation is God himself: faithful, unchanging, and ever-present with us.

So as we step into this time of transition, let's do so with both gratitude and anticipation. Gratitude for the generations who built and cared for our church, and for the team working to ensure it can serve the village for many years to come. Gratitude for the Village Hall and all who manage and use it. And anticipation for what God will do among us in this temporary home – the conversations we will have, the people we will meet, the encouragements we will share.

Change is rarely without its challenges, but it can also be a gift. As the leaves turn and the seasons shift, may we be open to the new things God is doing, trusting that his love and faithfulness will guide us through.

Rev Helen



If you or your family wish to sponsor the lights in celebration of a birthday, an anniversary, for a loved one's life or for any other reason then please contact Jenny Cunningham for more details. Please note that the deadline of the Church News is the 8<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, the Tower Lights are lit in remembrance of Norma Brinkley, who passed away this day 32 years ago. Forever in our hearts. Kindly sponsored by her sons Alan and Peter.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> September, the Tower Lights are lit in celebration of the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday of Ellie Davies, kindly sponsored by her Nanna, Brenda Davies.

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**Saturday 20th Sept**

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be confirmed

4.30 pm - 6.30 pm



*Little Pilgrims*

*Sunday School*

Will start again on Sunday September 14th

10 am in the Old School Room

And then every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in the month

Children under school age are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult at all times



**Upton St Leonards Church**

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>

Who's who in the church		
<b>Parish Priest:</b> Rev Helen Champion	<b>Churchwarden:</b> Gill Howell	<b>Parish Safeguarding Officer</b> Sue Downey
		<b>PCC Secretary</b> Kay Hutton
For wedding & baptism enquiries please contact Rev Helen.	For Interment and burial of ashes Enquiries please contact Gill	



## Confirmation

We will be hosting a confirmation service with Bishop Rachel early in the new year. If you are considering confirmation or would like to know more about it, do speak with Helen after one of the services. There's no rush but it would be good to know that we do at least have some candidates for when the Bishop comes.



*Tuesday Morning Prayer*  
9.30am every week  
will be held in the school room and not at  
the Rectory until October



*To Charlotte & Jamie*

Who were married on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July in Cheltenham

On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> the happy couple invited members of  
the congregation to stay after the morning service for  
the blessing of their marriage by Rev Helen

After the service a toast to their health and happiness  
with a glass of bubbly was made.



*500 Club Winners for  
August*

First Prize £30 No. 24

Second Prize £20 No. 31



In July, the Branch celebrated its 110th Anniversary having started in 1915. The afternoon began with a service in St



Leonard's Church devised by Rev Helen Champion and the Branch Secretary,

Katie Moore and they both led the worship. An offertory of over £90 was taken in aid of the Summer of Hope Appeal. Everyone then retired over the road to the Old School Room where the committee served Afternoon Tea. We were pleased to welcome



our Diocesan President, Doreen McLellan and one of our Vice Presidents,

Margaret Edwards.

The celebration cake was cut by Margaret Herbert 97, an Indoor Member and the oldest in the Branch able to attend. Everyone raised a glass of Bucks Fizz as Barry Gale proposed a toast to the future of the Branch. A display board and table had been prepared showing

photos of past celebrations, outings and services. There were registers going back to 1934, meetings report books, committee minutes and numerous pieces of MU memorabilia including first day covers of stamps depicting banners from the Isle of Man and for the centenary in 1976.

On Friday 5th September between 4 - 5pm members will be taking part in "Wave of



Prayer remembering those Dioceses we are linked with all over the world: Khartoum in Sudan; Dar es Salaam in Tanzania; Barr & Ilesa in Nigeria and Dugapur in India. They will either be following the printed booklet including Bible readings and information about the members overseas in their own homes or they are welcome to come along to our house and join myself and Barry. The next meeting will be the customary communion service on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September when the officiant will be the Rev Liz Palin, the Diocesan MU Chaplain. Depending on the repairing of the church roof this will either take place in the church or in the School Room at 2pm. Refreshments will be served afterwards and visitors would be most welcome.

Kate Gale

## *Registered Charity*

The Church has just been registered as a charity in its own right with the Charity Commission, charity number 1214471.

You might ask: "Wasn't it already a charity? It's been claiming Gift Aid for ages." Yes, of course it was -- small churches with annual income less than £100,000 are "excepted" from the need to register separately, coming under a general Church of England agreement with the Charity Commission (other denominations have similar agreements). Our income this year well exceeds that threshold because of the grants for the roof, so we have had to apply for our own registration. Like any registered charity, we will list our trustees (the whole of the PCC), our aims, how and whether we achieved those aims each year, and submit our annual accounts to the Charity Commission, and anyone can see these on the Commission's web site.



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# Arts Page

This month we look at how poets have described men and boys over recent centuries.

## **A Song about MYSELF by John Keats 1795 – 1821**

There was a naughty boy,  
And a naughty boy was he,  
He ran away to Scotland  
The people for to see -  
Then he found  
That the ground  
Was as hard,  
That a yard  
Was as long,  
That a song  
Was as merry,  
That a cherry  
Was as red,  
That lead  
Was as weighty,  
That fourscore  
Was as eighty,  
That a door  
Was as wooden  
As in England -  
So he stood in his shoes  
And he wondered  
He wondered,  
He stood in his Shoes  
and he wondered.

## **Worried Man Blues by Kit Wright born 1944**

I was in a skiffle group  
In 1959  
One chord to a line,  
We were doing  
Fine,

Playing Worried Man upon  
The Hurst Green Church Hall stage,  
Fifteen years of age  
When Lonnie was  
The rage,

Tea-chest bass and washboard and  
Two three-chord tricks:  
Somehow  
No worries then:

My God I'm worried now.

## **THOUGHTS**

Men are sweet and good and silly and tiresome and selfish,  
ingenuous and so simple, You can't help liking them.  
(Somerset Maugham)

The tact of women excels the skill of men (Anthony Trollope)

The fact is that men should never try to dictate to women. They  
never know how to do it, and when they do it, they always say  
something particularly foolish. (Oscar Wilde)

## **Boots, Boots, Boots by Leroy Freeman Jackson 1881-1958**

Buster's got a popper gun,  
A reg'lar one that shoots,  
And Teddy's got an engine  
With a whistler that toots.  
But I've got something finer yet -  
A pair of rubber boots.  
Oh, it's boots, boots, boots,  
A pair of rubber boots!  
I could walk from here to China  
In a pair of rubber boots.

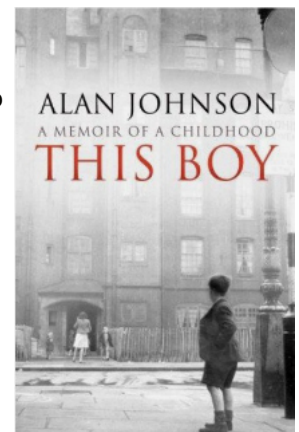
## **From Vacillation by W. B. Yeats 1865-1939**

My fiftieth year had come and gone,  
I sat, a solitary man,  
In a crowded London shop,  
An open book and empty cup  
On the marble table-top.

While on the shop and street I gazed  
My body of a sudden blazed;  
And twenty minutes more or less  
It seemed, so great my happiness,  
That I was blessed and could bless.

## **BOOK REVIEW**

This Boy by Alan Johnson is the memoir of the politician who was born in 1950 and went on to be General Secretary of the Communication Workers Union, Member of Parliament, Home Secretary, Health Secretary and Education Secretary. This Boy is a detailed, harrowing account of a one-parent family living in 1950s/60s London in deep poverty and appalling slum conditions. The book is written in an honest and witty style with many details about music and fashion styles of the period.





## Focus on Local Business

### BOWDEN HALL HOTEL

OK, the full title should be Mercure Gloucester, Bowden Hall Hotel, but to Village residents it is simply Bowden Hall.

The Hotel has done much for our community, and we are grateful. Here's a list of some benefits:

- Access to the Woodland Trust area on Nut Hill, with permission to use two paths through the Hotel grounds
- Frequent donations of prizes for raffles
- Grants to the Upton Show
- Often offering their car park for events at the school
- Employment opportunities
- Offering the paddock to the Gloucester City Farm
- Gloucester Rotary meeting place

It's high time to give something back in promoting what the Hotel offers to Villagers. It's obviously a place friends and relations can stay when your house is not big enough.



Have you tried eating out there? How about a posh afternoon tea for a treat? Have a meal or tea in one of the pods, for an unusual experience. And, of course, consider using the Hotel for a meeting, an office party at Christmas or any other time. Have a



Christmas Day Lunch (not many tickets left this year, I am told) and New Year's Eve celebration.

Were you aware that Villagers can have a Loyalty Card that gives 10% off dining / bar / pods / events? Do visit and ask for one.

We finish by mentioning, firstly, Bowden Hall honey for sale (a best seller) and, secondly, an upcoming charity event for Katkinz on October 18, see their flyer on page 7, where Bowden Hall is generously discounting the cost to ensure the charity gets as much as possible.

## *The Lady Downe Trust*

Registered Charity no. 286577

Are you or is someone you know going to University or into Higher Education this autumn?

The Lady Downe Trust is a small charity based in Upton St Leonards that provides grant aid to young people under the age of 25 who are resident in the village and going to University or on to further or higher education.

Visit our website [www.ladydowne.org](http://www.ladydowne.org) for more information, to see a list of the eligible streets in Abbeymead, Abbeydale and Coopers Edge or to download an application form. Alternatively, you can request a form from the clerk at [clerk@ladydowne.org](mailto:clerk@ladydowne.org)



# Advertising

If you use any of the services provided by our advertisers, please mention that you saw them in USL Life. They can then understand the impact of their advertising. Thank you

## We have another new advertiser this month: Broomfield Care

Broomfield Care is a well-established home care company that has helped hundreds of families across Gloucester in the last 15 years. We're a small, but dedicated team of carers, who specialise in providing personalised care plans. If you're in need of care or know someone who might be, enquire today!

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## SEPTEMBER

1	Mon	Coffee Club .....	BMI .....	10.00am
1	Mon	Upton WI .....	Pavilion .....	2.30pm
1	Mon	Parish Council Meeting .....	Pavilion .....	7.30pm
2	Tue	Needles & Pins .....	Village Hall Annex .....	9.45am
2	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week – garden rubbish for those with brown bins		
2	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening .....	Tennis Courts.....	6.00pm
2	Tue	Badminton .....	Village Hall .....	8.00-10.00pm
3	Wed	Wednesday Probus .....	BMI .....	10.00am
3	Wed	UpStagers Amateur Dramatics .....	Village Hall .....	7.30pm
3	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI .....	8.00pm
7	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis Courts.....	10.00am
8	Mon	Coffee Club .....	BMI .....	10.00am
8	Mon	Twyver WI .....	Village Hall .....	7.30pm
9	Tue	Needles & Pins .....	Village Hall Annex .....	9.45am
9	Tue	Tuesday Probus .....	BMI .....	10.00am
9	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
9	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening .....	Tennis Courts.....	6.00pm
9	Tue	Badminton .....	Village Hall .....	8.00-10.00pm
10	Wed	UpStagers Amateur Dramatics .....	Village Hall .....	7.30pm
10	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI .....	8.00pm
10	Wed	Copy date for October issue of USL Life		
13	Sat	Upton Show.....	Village Hall and Grounds .....	2.00pm
14	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis Courts.....	10.00am
15	Mon	Coffee Club .....	BMI .....	10.00am
15	Mon	Abbeyle Garden Club .....	Village Hall .....	7.30pm
16	Tue	Needles & Pins .....	Village Hall Annex .....	9.45am
16	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week – garden rubbish for those with brown bins		
16	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening .....	Tennis Courts.....	6.00pm
16	Tue	Badminton .....	Village Hall .....	8.00-10.00pm
17	Wed	Wednesday Probus .....	BMI .....	10.00am
17	Wed	Prinknash plans - public viewing.....	Pavilion .....	4.00-7.00pm
17	Wed	UpStagers Amateur Dramatics .....	Village Hall .....	7.30pm
17	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI .....	8.00pm
18	Thu	History Group .....	Village Hall .....	7.45pm
		Henry VIII's Royal Progress through Gloucestershire in 1535		
21	Sun	Evening Jazz with Os Grilos.....	BMI .....	6.00pm
21	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis Courts.....	10.00am
22	Mon	Coffee Club .....	BMI .....	10.00am
23	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
23	Tue	Tuesday Probus .....	BMI .....	10.00am
23	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening .....	Tennis Courts.....	6.00pm
23	Tue	Needles & Pins .....	Village Hall Annex .....	9.45am
23	Tue	Badminton .....	Village Hall .....	8.00-10.00pm
24	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	BMI .....	10.00am
24	Wed	UpStagers Amateur Dramatics .....	Village Hall .....	7.30pm
24	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI .....	8.00pm
25	Thu	Craft Club.....	The Old School Room.....	10.00-12.00pm
26	Fri	Macmillan Coffee Morning .....	USL Village Store & Post Office.....	9.30am
27	Sat	Entertainment Night with Michael Ian Brown .....	BMI .....	8.00pm
28	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis Courts.....	10.00am
29	Mon	Coffee Club .....	BMI .....	10.00am
30	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week. Garden Rubbish for those with brown bins		
30	Tue	Badminton .....	Village Hall .....	8.00-10.00am
30	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening .....	Tennis Courts.....	6.00pm

## OCTOBER

4	Sat	Entertainment Night with Earl Tee .....	BMI .....	8.00pm
6	Mon	Upton WI .....	Pavilion .....	2.30pm
6	Mon	Parish Council Meeting .....	Pavilion .....	7.30pm
10	Fri	Copy date for November issue of USL Life		
11	Sat	"George Michael" tribute night.....	BMI .....	8.00pm
13	Mon	Twyver WI .....	Village Hall .....	7.30pm
18	Sat	Katkinz "Hollywood Ball" (ticketed, see p7) .....	Bowden Hall .....	7.00pm
18	Sat	Autumn Quiz .....	BMI .....	8.00pm

Continued on the next page

20	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Centre .....	Village Hall .....	7.30pm
25	Sat	Entertainment Night.....	BMI .....	8.00pm
30	Thu	Craft Club.....	The Old School Room.....	10.00-12.00p.m

## NOVEMBER

3	Mon	Upton WI .....	Pavilion .....	2.30pm
3	Mon	Parish Council Meeting .....	Pavilion .....	7.30pm
9	Sun	Comedy Night.....	BMI .....	8.00pm
10	Mon	Copy date for December issue of USL Life		
10	Mon	Twyver WI .....	Village Hall .....	7.30pm
16	Sun	Sunday lunchtime Jazz .....	BMI .....	1.00pm
17	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club .....	Village Hall .....	7.30pm
19	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	BMI .....	10.00am
20	Thu	History Group .....	Village Hall .....	7.45pm
		Stroud Workhouses – A danger to sick people		
27	Thu	Craft Club.....	The Old School Room.....	10.00-12.00pm
29	Sat	Entertainment Night.....	BMI .....	8.00pm

**If you would like an event included in the Village Diary, please contact Paula Quinn**

## Weekly Courses

Activity	Day	Venue	Contact	
Yoga	Mondays 10am	Village Hall Annex	Lara Bricknell	07876 764425
Chairobics with Tina (NEW - See below)	Tuesdays 1.45pm	Pavilion	Angela Harris	
Art Class	Tuesdays 2pm	Village Hall Annex	Christine Hughes	01452 614227
Dance Workout	Tuesdays 7pm	Pavilion	Debra Law	07505 761420
Pilates with Sam	Fridays 9.30am	Village Hall Annex	Sam Slatter	07894 757360



“Chairobics with Tina” replaces the Chair Pilates. It runs every Tuesday at 1.45pm at the Pavilion. Please continue to book a place through Angela Harris as above.

Tina writes:

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- ✓ Cognitive challenge – Keeps your brain as active as your body

Perfect for anyone wanting a safe, effective, and fun workout!

The cost is £8 per session, or £24 for a block of 4 sessions.

<https://www.sportinafitness.co.uk/>



## New Proposals for Prinknash Abbey

New plans are being brought forward for the redevelopment of the existing 1972 former Prinknash Abbey building into residential dwellings. The developers are preparing a planning application for submission to Stroud District Council in the autumn and would like to engage with the local community on the details of the proposals prior to making the formal submission.

To that end an open presentation is being held with details of the plans available for scrutiny by residents and interested parties. Members of the development team will be on hand to answer any questions and hear any comments. The event will take place at the Pavilion on Wednesday 17 September and will run from 4:00pm to 7:00pm.



# It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning and you're invited

**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**

Once again, those lovely people at the Post Office, Tru Cuts, the Coffee Shop and Upton Builders are running the Macmillan Coffee Morning at the shops.

Friday 26 September

Always a fabulous Village event that raises a huge amount for Macmillan Cancer support

## Fire risk

A small brush fire beside the motorway on Wheatridge East / Ash Path (see the picture on the back page) on 8 August could have been so much more serious, but very luckily it was spotted early. Probably caused by a carelessly thrown cigarette end. Please remember grass verges and wild areas are tinder dry, likely to catch light at the slightest spark.

## Clearing road gutters

You may not have noticed, but the Council / highways no longer spray the kerb areas of our roads, a combination of not wishing to use chemical weedkillers and budget cuts. So the weeds growing on the pavement and roadside outside your house will stay there unless you take action yourself. It does improve the look to cut these back, so if you can, please do so.

## UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE

Web site <https://usllife.org.uk>

To contact us, use the website above or the postbox by the Village Hall main door, or use the contact details that appear below:

This month's editor: Andy Russell  
Editors: Andrea Dawson  
Andy Russell

Barbara Swindin  
Peter Wilson

Company Secretary: Cliff Alderman

Treasurer: David Morris

Feature writers: Linda Munnoch  
Ann Morpew  
Jane Reed

Church pages: Rachel Middleton

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## Next month's Editor Andrea Dawson



You can contact her -

Use the postbox at the Village Hall or via the "Contact Us" box on our web page to pass messages to us.

**DISCLAIMER:** USL Life welcomes adverts for goods and services but reminds readers to make their own checks before entering into any contract or other arrangements with advertisers, as USL Life cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of the advertisements.

## FLAT SPIN

Scenes from the latest UpStagers' production

The flat, on the left, looks bereft of furniture. That's part of the plot! Malcolm (David Carey), Patrick (Andy Metcalfe), Kate (Jane Rogers) and Louise (Rachel Gibbs) are trying to work out why and where it's all gone.

Below: Property agent Marsha (Carol Vye) and potential new tenant Alan (Martin Smith) are discussing the virtues of the flat.



## The full cast at the curtain call

Ronda (Kate Brooks) and Justin (Keith Pearson) are on the right.

Keith Pearson doubled as the Producer



Photos by Jim Browne

## The brush fire at Wheatridge East

On 8 August. See page 19

Photo by Linda Munnoch

